

Prior to Examination, please amend the above-identified application as shown below:

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified U.S. application as follows:

In The Specification

Please amend the portions of the specification as indicated by the following marked up versions thereof:

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, line 3, immediately preceding the words "FIELD OF THE INVENTION":

--This application claims priority to PCT/EP2003/007301 entitled Continuous Casting Plant With A Deflecting Device For Metallic Strips And Deflecting Method, filed on 08 July 2003, which claims priority to Italian Patent Application No.MI2002A001509, filed on 10 July 2002.--